

# GOVERNOR M'CREARY'S OPENING SPEECH

He Begins His Campaign at Bowling Green in a Strong Address That Is Received With Great Enthusiasm.

One of the Largest Crowds That Ever Attended a Political Meeting in the State Greeted the Ex-Governor.

He Proclaims Himself in Favor of the Extension of the County Unit Law, and Leaves No Doubt of His Position.

A HEARTY, SINCERE, RINGING DOCUMENT

BOWLING GREEN, Ky., Sept. 4.—Governor James B. McCreary, Democratic nominee for Governor, opened his campaign in this city today. The largest crowd that ever attended a political meeting here was present. Democratic voters poured in from the surrounding counties to give their personal approval to their party leader and to indorse the platform upon which he is asking the votes of the people. The enthusiasm with which Governor McCreary was received gives evidence of an aroused party spirit, which augurs well for Democratic success.

His speech was a complete review of the political situation in Kentucky and the nation. It leaves no live subject untouched. It calls the Republican party to account for its failures to live up to its platform pledges.

Governor McCreary delivered a masterful speech. He heartily indorsed every plank in the Democratic platform, and left no doubt in the minds of his hearers where he stands on every public question.

His speech in full is as follows:

Fellow Citizens: I have the honor of addressing you today as the regularly nominated candidate of the Democratic party for the office of Governor.

No words I can utter seem strong enough to express my gratitude for the nomination given to me by the Democrats of Kentucky.

I can only say I am sincerely and earnestly thankful for the great honor conferred upon me, and I shall try with whatever energy or intellect I possess to carry the Democratic flag to victory, and if I am elected Governor of Kentucky I will have no personal schemes to advance, no individual aspirations to promote, but I shall do all in my power to discharge every duty required of me faithfully and efficiently, and try in every proper way to uplift Kentucky, promote progress, improvement and advancement, preserve law and order and uphold all that will bring prosperity to the State and happiness to the people.

It will always be a source of pleasure to me that Madison County where I have resided all my life and where I am thoroughly known, indorsed me for the office of Governor, with only 34 votes against me in the primary election and 2,400 votes for me, in a very busy season, being not far from the 600 Democratic vote of the county and in the Eighth Congressional District, which I represented in Congress for twelve years, I was indorsed by a majority in the primary election of over 6,000 votes.

At the outset I wish to say with emphasis, if I am elected Governor I will not be controlled by a clique, machine or individual, but I shall be as I was before when I had the honor to be Chief Executive—the Governor of the State according to the Constitution and the law.

## Duty of Democrats.

There was never a time in our State when Democrats should be more alert and aggressive, more harmonious and united, than the present time. Kentucky Democrats are to fight the opening political battle this year, which will precede the great National battle for President next year. Kentucky Democrats will help start the movement which I believe will result in the election of a Democratic President in 1912.

While Democrats in other States are carrying the Democratic flag full high advanced to victory and increased majorities, Democrats in Kentucky must not falter or hesitate, but rather be energetic, enthusiastic, invincible victors.

## The State of Kentucky.

The first and foremost subject to enlist attention of all is the State of Kentucky. There is everywhere in our State a greater desire for progress, improvement and advancement than ever before. The location, the climate, the resources, the splendid men and the attractive women show that we have everything to make Kentucky one of the greatest States in the Union, if proper efforts are made.

I was born and reared in Kentucky, and I have always loved my native State, and it is but natural for me to wish to see her outstrip all of her sister States in every material interest and every desirable form of progress. Kentucky occupies a central place in the great Mississippi Valley, and no part of the world shows greater progress and activity than that vast region stretching from the Alleghenies westward to the Rocky Mountains, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico, containing an area of a million and a quarter square miles, and having a population of thirty millions, and possessing natural advantages unexcelled by any section of the globe.

While her sister States are developing and utilizing every advantage, Kentucky must go forward also. We live in an age of progress and development, and the pulse and pace of the

world have been greatly quickened. Our State must keep step to the music of the age, and we must have united, aggressive efforts for industrial and commercial supremacy, and Kentucky must forge to the front as one of the leading States of the Union in farming, in manufactures, in mining, in education, and in all the varied interests of a great people inhabiting a great State.

Few States, if any, in our Republic have such geological formations, such diversity of soils and mines, and such varied attractions as Kentucky.

**Great Agricultural and Mining State.** The soil of Kentucky is very rich for agricultural purposes. Nowhere can be found better producing tobacco land, better producing hemp land, better producing corn, wheat, rye, oats and barley lands.

Our State produces nearly one-third of the tobacco grown in the United States and 90 per cent of the hemp of the United States is produced in Kentucky.

With an area of 41,283 square miles only about 1,500 square miles are unfit for agriculture. Our coal fields are unexcelled in any State, there being 15,680 square miles of coal-bearing



GOV. JAMES B. M'CREARY.

area, with coking coal in seven counties of the western coal fields and ten counties in the eastern coal fields, and canal coal in abundance.

Her timber districts are immense, comprising vast forests of merchantable timber of every variety, and iron ore, lead, zinc, building stone and pottery clay abound in almost inexhaustible quantities, while rich, paying oil wells have been opened in various sections of the State.

Kentucky has over 2,000 miles of rivers, including the Ohio and Mississippi rivers where they bound its borders, and over 3,000 miles of railroads are ready and convenient for travel and transportation, and her live stock is not excelled in any part of the world.

**Will Be Great Manufacturing State.** Kentucky is not only a great agricultural and mining State, but her manufactures are extensive and increasing rapidly, and being situated midway between the Northern Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, and between the Eastern and Western ranges of the North American Mountains, is destined on account of location and facilities to become after a while a great manufacturing State.

When Solon, the great Athenian law-giver, was full of years and full of honors he said: "I have done all in my power to improve my country and to defend its laws." If Kentuckians will emulate his example we will have a great era of development in our commonwealth.

I will always be ready, whether in

office or not in office, to do all in my power to improve and develop Kentucky.

**The Achievements of Democrats in Kentucky.**

The Democratic party is the Party of Progress, the Party of Peace and Law and Order, the Party of Liberty and Equal Rights, the party that has given to Kentucky its educational advantages, its development and its advancement, and therefore, if Kentucky improves, Democracy must be triumphant in our State.

I point you to the contrast between Republican rule and Democratic rule in Kentucky.

As against the Republican record of assassination, bloodshed and disregard of law I present the Democratic record for peace, strict regard for human life, and respect for and maintenance of law and order. As against a treasury with only \$338,852.69 and unpaid warrants against the State amounting in July last to \$1,359,502, bearing 5 per cent interest, I present the Democratic record of a magnificent State Capitol, erected and paid for without any extra tax, and every just claim against the State promptly paid in full.

As against Republican platform pledges and promises that have been broken, Democrats present a record showing all pledges and promises faithfully complied with. I call attention to the record which shows that the State debt was about one million dollars before the Democrats came into power in 1900, and was wiped out by Democrats, who left a balance in the treasury of a million dollars, and since Republican Governor Wilson was inaugurated the State is in debt more than a million of dollars.

A Democratic Legislature established two State Normal Schools for the training of the teachers of the State, and made appropriations for their maintenance, and established the State University, and also appropriated money for its benefit. The common school law of Kentucky was enacted by a Democratic Legislature, and all the improvements and increased facilities for education came through Democratic legislation. A Democratic Legislature re-established the Geological Survey, provided for a Confederate Home, with proper appropriations for the support of Confederate veterans, and enacted a law for the benefit of the Children's Home Society and made it a State institution, and enlarged the Agricultural Department so as to include forestry and immigration and established a Normal School at Frankfort, Ky., for colored people, and made liberal appropriations for its maintenance.

**Republicans Can Refer to No Beneficial Legislation, and Their Record Does Not Deserve Indorsement.**

Republicans can refer to no legislation originated or enacted by them in Kentucky which has increased educational facilities, added to internal improvements, adjusted or lightened burdens of taxation or benefited Kentucky in any way.

The record shows, however, a remarkable military history, in which the expenditures for active militia in three and a half years under Governor Wilson amounts to \$277,158.87, or an average expenditure per year of \$79,188.24, as against \$29,359.16, or an average expenditure per year of \$7,339.79 for the four last years of Governor Beckham's administration.

Thus it will be seen that the Republican expenses are nearly ten times as much for active militia in three years and a half as Democrats expended in four years.

Since so much has been said in the newspapers about expenditures for active militia, I have been asked to state the expenditures for active militia the four years I was Governor, and I have obtained the statement from the Auditor's office, showing that for the four years I was Governor there was expended for the active militia \$20,401.68, or \$5,100.17 per annum, being one fifteenth as much per annum as under the present Republican administration.

I have been asked also to state how many days I was absent from the State during my four years' service as Governor. The record shows I was absent from the State during my entire term thirty-four days, and the State paid to the Lieutenant Governor for that period \$402, while the present Republican Governor has been absent from the State 339 days, and Lieutenant Governor Cox has drawn for this time \$4,256.20 for acting as Governor, the per diem being \$12.80, and Governor Wilson drawing the same amount for the same 239 days.

The record also shows that the thirteenth section of the last Republican platform adopted in 1907 promised that if put in power Republicans would "reduce the taxes to the lowest possible rate consistent with an efficient administration of the State government." More than three years and a half of the Republican administration has passed and we have not heard anything more about the proposed reduction in taxes. The people, however, have felt a movement of the opposite character. There has been no direct increase in the tax rate, but it was necessary to raise money to pay the increased expenses inaugurated by Republicans, and they have resorted to an indirect method of raising the rate. The Republican State Board of Equalization increased the valuation of property as turned in from the counties. Take the years 1910 and 1911 as examples. In several counties this raise has been as great as 25 per cent and in other counties 20 per cent, and 15 per cent and 12 per cent. In 1910 ninety-three counties were raised, the average raise being about 12 per cent. In 1911 seventy-two counties have been raised, the average raise being a little more than 9 per cent. Thus it will be seen that while the State tax rate was not actually increased, the result was the same in these counties as if it had been raised an average of 12 per cent in 1910 and an average of 9 per cent in 1911. This was equivalent to raising the State tax rate on these counties from 50 cents on the \$100 to 56 cents in 1910 and 54½ cents in 1911.

The Legislature, with the approval of the Governor, has the power to increase the tax rate, but the Republican Board of Equalization usurped

the functions of the Legislature and in effect raised the tax rate.

Take Warren County as an example. In 1910 the Republican State Board of Equalization raised Warren County 15 per cent on lands, town lots and personality. This made a raise of \$791,092 in lands, \$480,670 in town lots and \$212,440 in personality, making a total raise for that year on Warren County property of \$1,484,202.

For this year 1911, Warren County was raised 10 per cent on lands, town lots and personality, making a raise on lands of \$555,106, on town lots \$333,268, and on personality of \$157,694, or a total raise on the property of the county of \$1,046,068, thus making a total raise for the two years of \$2,530,270 on the property of the county.

As the State tax rate is 50 cents on the \$100 it will be seen that this raise on Warren County for the two years has added over \$12,000 in taxes paid to the State alone. As this raise also affects county, city and district taxes, doubtless the raise caused an increase for all these local purposes of more than twice \$12,000, as local rates are probably more than a dollar on the \$100, as against 50 cents for the State rate.

So it can be stated that for all purposes the citizens of Warren County have had to pay, in the two years, because of these raises, about \$36,000 additional taxes.

As long as Kentucky is a sovereign State the people will hold leading Republicans responsible for the record they have made in Kentucky when they brought soldiers to the Capitol of the State and made bayonets superior to law and soldiers superior to legislators; when they caused judges of the Court of Appeals and State Legislators to pass under bayonets on the way to their respective official duties.

When soldiers and galling guns and cannons were placed on the Capitol grounds, when the duly-elected Governor was cowardly assassinated and Republicans made no protest, and made no effort to have the assassins of the Governor arrested, and when the assassins were brought to justice and tried and convicted, a Republican Governor pardoned them.

There is nothing clearer in our State than that Republicans have no right, because of anything they have done, to govern Kentucky. They have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

**Republicans Are Endeavoring to Divert Attention of Voters From Their Record.**

One of the principal issues in this campaign is. Shall the Republican party, with its record in Kentucky and in the United States be given a new lease of power by the election of Republican candidates to the highest State offices, and thus put upon them the seal of approval by the people, and tell them to renew and revive the outrages and extravagance and burdensome taxation which they have upheld and advocated?

Republicans are endeavoring to divert attention of voters from the unparalleled record they have made, both in the State and the Nation, by injecting immaterial, irrelevant or unsupported issues, hoping to draw the people away from main questions and have the campaign pitched on side questions. I believe the people have the requisite virtue and intelligence to rid the politics of the State of demoralizing and improper influences, and Democrats will see that Republicans are held responsible for their acts, both in State and in National affairs.

**Clean Politics and No Bosses or Machines.**

I have always been in favor of clean politics, and opposed to bosses, machines or rings.

When I had the honor to be Governor before, no Republican or any other man ever charged that there were bosses, rings or machines at that time.

Judge O'Rear, in his speech at Elizabethtown, tried to appear as the apostle of good government and pure elections, and he spoke at length about political machines and boss rule in Kentucky.

These are strange utterances by a Republican who has voted so often to indorse National Republican rule, which has been conspicuous for the support of boss-ridden and machine-ridden Republican States.

When a Republican speaks in favor of clean politics and against machines after the record made by the Republican party in Kentucky, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, California and in Southern States, it must be regarded as one of the wonders of the present time. For years New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Ohio were under boss rule and machine control until a majority of the voters determined to overthrow bosses and machines, and Democrats and Republicans rose in their majesty and power and overthrew Republican rule and placed Democrats in control of the States I have named.

I know there is no boss rule or machine rule in Kentucky at the present time unless it is in the Republican party. There are some Republicans who believe there was a Republican machine when the last State Republican convention was held at Louisville, and the steam roller was run over a worthy ex-Federal soldier and other prominent candidates in order to carry out the "plan and specifications" determined upon by the bosses of the Republican party.

**State-Wide Primary Elections—The Remedy.**

Judge O'Rear said in his Elizabethtown speech: "State-wide primary election is the remedy for bossism and machine rule, etc."

I have always been an advocate of primary elections.

About eight months ago twenty-six Democratic candidates for the State offices met in Louisville by invitation of the Democratic State Executive Committee to consult as to whether the State Democratic candidates should be nominated by a State convention or by a State primary election. I advocated a primary election and I used arguments now presented by Judge O'Rear in favor of the primary election. I said in addressing the Democratic State Executive Committee, "If we wish the Democratic

voters to take an interest in the candidates, and in the election, we must have methods for the nomination of the party candidates which will insure general participation in the election, and I believe a primary election according to the statutes of Kentucky is the best plan to select the nominees for the various offices."

The statutes of Kentucky prescribe the rules and regulations for nominating in primary elections candidates for State, district, county or municipal offices. There is no statute regulating State conventions or county conventions.

Success is always greatly promoted if we have equal rights for all and special privileges for none, and opportunities given to all Democrats to assist in nominating the candidates they will support at the general election are encouraging to the voters. The humblest Democrat has as much right to participate in the nomination of Democratic State officers as the most prominent and influential Democrat, and the farmer in the country should have equal chances with the Democrats in a town or city. Comparative few persons attend courthouse conventions, and often 100 persons, or a less number, in a courthouse convention choose delegates or instruct for candidates, while several thousand Democratic voters of the county are absent at their homes.

**Advantage of Primary.**

The government should be brought close to the people, and there can be no bosses or rings or machines in connection with a primary legally and honestly held, and all who know me know I would not accept a nomination unless it came to me honestly and fairly. Experience has taught the people to appreciate primary elections. In every Democratic county in Kentucky primary elections are held to nominate the county officers, and every State south of Kentucky holds primary elections to nominate county and State officers, and many of the Northern and Western States nominate their county and State officers in primary elections.

A few months ago there was a conference of Governors and Governors-elect at Frankfort and Louisville, and in a discussion on primary elections all except one favored primary elections, and thirty-seven were present.

The State Democratic Executive Committee ordered a primary election to be held on the first day of July, 1911, in every precinct of the State under the primary election law of the State of Kentucky, to nominate candidates for the State offices and a United States Senator.

I was nominated, as were all the other Democratic candidates for State offices, at the primary election held July 1, 1911, according to the plan suggested by Judge O'Rear as a remedy for machine rule, except that the State did not pay the expenses, but the Democratic platform recently adopted at the State Democratic convention contains a resolution declaring in favor of a direct primary election law at the public expense.

**How Were Judge O'Rear and His Ticket Nominated?**

Judge O'Rear and his associates on the Republican ticket were nominated by a convention held in Louisville, Ky. He wrote the platform, and he says the provisions of the platform were in the main set forth in the announcement of his candidacy three months before the convention was held. According to the statements of Republicans, he named the candidates to be nominated for the various State offices, and he also named the chairman of the State convention. About 2,000 Republicans voted in the Republican convention which nominated Judge O'Rear. Over 100,000 Democrats voted in the primary election in which I and other Democratic candidates for the State offices were nominated.

Very little perception is required to see that Judge O'Rear's nomination and the nomination of the other candidates on the Republican ticket looked far more like boss rule and machine rule than my nomination and the nomination of my associates on the Democratic ticket by a primary election.

If ever there was in any State a fair primary election wherein the people were uncontrolled and uninfluenced, assembled at their respective voting places and nominated candidates of their choice, it was at the Democratic State primary election held on the 1st day of July last.

**Turbulent Times and Disgraceful Scenes.**

We all remember the turbulent times and disgraceful scenes that marked Kentucky's history about two years ago, when a motley crowd of Republicans marched to our State Capitol, and cannon were placed in the Capitol grounds and legislators and Judges of the Court of Appeals were driven to the city of Louisville for safety and protection. Where was Judge O'Rear then and why did he not raise his voice then as now for clean politics and law and order? Why did he not refer to these times in his platform, adopted by the Republican convention, as did Democrats in their platform, adopted by the Democratic convention?

While I am speaking of the last Republican State convention I must refer to conspicuous events in that convention, which have attracted wide attention.

That convention approved and indorsed the Republican administration of the affairs of the State and all means employed by that administration for the preservation of law and order, and although Judge O'Rear is said to have criticized Governor Wilson's military exploits, he was quick to get on the platform which indorsed the very thing which he was the first to criticize and denounce.

A conspicuous omission of the convention which nominated my distinguished opponent and other members of the Republican ticket was that the delegates did not deign to mention in the convention or in the platform the names of the present Republican Governor of Kentucky.

The most dramatic event in that Republican State Convention was Judge O'Rear's undertaking to eulogize Senator Bradley by declaring that he was making a speech: "I am proud to say of Senator Bradley that despite the machinations of the lobby, there

is one Senator on whose title there is no stain, and on whose record there is no blot." Why was it necessary to say anything on that subject? It seems to me that if the hour of eulogy had arrived it would have been more appropriate for Bradley to have eulogized O'Rear, as he had just been nominated as the Republican candidate for Governor.

**Judge O'Rear's Resignation as a Judge of the Court of Appeals.**

Judge O'Rear, in his Elizabethtown speech, to excuse himself for not resigning the office of Judge of the Court of Appeals while a candidate for Governor, referred to me as follows: "My distinguished opponent also holds an office of power and dignity as Peace Commissioner, perhaps with some profit, also. He has not resigned from that position, and I hope he will not resign."

If Judge O'Rear had asked me about this, I would have prevented him from misrepresenting me. I was President of the American Peace and Arbitration League, which has a large membership in various States, and whose main object is the settlement of international disagreements without war by an international arbitration tribunal.

When I decided to be a candidate for Governor I was unwilling to hold that office and not attend to its duties while a candidate for Governor, and I resigned, to take effect January 1, 1911. My associates tried for a while to keep me in office, but my resignation was finally accepted, and I received no pay from the first day of January, 1911. The letter of the General Secretary of the American Peace and Arbitration League accepting my resignation is as follows:

"April 20, 1911.

"Hon. James B. McCreary, Richmond, Ky.:

"Dear Sir—In compliance with your proposal at the directors' meeting of June, 1910, to retire January 1, 1911, in favor of Mr. Clark or Mr. Clevs, if personal affairs require your attention in Kentucky, and in accord with your recent letter to Vice President Clark, reaffirming the same, your resignation as President of the American Peace and Arbitration League was accepted at an adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors, held at Mr. Clevs' office, April 19, 1911.

"Vice President Clark declined the honor on account of business engagements requiring his absence many months in the year, and Mr. Clevs was elected as President of the League.

"By unanimous vote of the board you were elected as Honorary Vice President. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this and oblige, Yours truly,

"ANDREW B. HUMPHREY,

"General Secretary."

I was under no obligation to resign, because I did not hold either a State office or a United States office, but I resigned because I was unwilling to neglect the duties of an important office while I was a candidate for Governor, and which I believed would consume nearly one year.

I should not have referred to Judge O'Rear holding an office while a candidate for Governor but for his reference to me.

Judge O'Rear has been, according to his own statement, a Judge of the Court of Appeals for eleven years. He has five years to serve as Judge before his present term expires. For two years it has been currently reported Judge O'Rear would be a candidate for Governor, and for a number of months before the Court of Appeals adjourned for the present summer recess he did not perform the duties of Judge, but was actively engaged making speeches and conducting his campaign and consulting with his political supporters, and he will be absent from his duties as Judge during the months of September and October. The average man will see Judge O'Rear's situation and the difficulty of discharging his duties as Judge during the years he was preparing to be a candidate for Governor, when voters, whose support he desired, had cases before him in the Court of Appeals which involved their property, liberty or life. They will also notice that during the months Judge O'Rear engaged in an active canvass for the nomination and in the campaign after his nomination, although not performing any of the duties of his office as Judge, he drew the salary of that office, which amounted to \$5,000 per annum, or \$416 per month, and announced that he will not resign unless elected Governor, and that he will appoint his own successor, and not have his successor appointed by Governor Wilson. It is no excuse for him, as stated by some of his friends, that in all the history of Kentucky no other Judge of the highest court of the State has ever done before as the jurist candidate of the Republican party is now doing, and that this is the first act of that kind, and therefore should be overlooked.

**The Cases Cited By Judge O'Rear Are Not Analogous to His Case.**

The cases cited by Judge O'Rear to excuse him for holding the office and drawing the salary of a Judge of the Court of Appeals while a candidate for Governor are not in point, and are not analogous to his case.

Mayor Head discharged all the duties of Mayor while a candidate for Governor. Hon. Ben Johnson attended to all of his duties as a Congressman while a candidate for Governor, and Hon. Ollie James, while a candidate for United States Senator, attended to all of his duties as a member of Congress, and neither of these men had cases before them in which the voters were interested, whose support they desired; and it may be also said of Judge Paynter, when a candidate for United States Senator only a short time, he remained in Frankfort and attended regularly to his duties as Judge.

Judge O'Rear seems to have overlooked entirely the seventh plank in the Republican platform, which he wrote himself, according to his own admission, and which provides that the judiciary of the State in both the Circuit and Appellate Courts should be chosen on nonpartisan grounds, and the continuance in office of faithful judicial servants should be determined by no other qualification than fitness.

Judge Parker, of New York, when nominated as the Democratic candi-